

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187840
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:KDROBINSON

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O 252216Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187840

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 4164 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAMASCUS
JUL 24.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4164

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN INTENTIONS IN LEBANON

1. ON JULY 22 I ASKED G-2 JOHNNY ABDO WHAT HE THOUGHT SYRIAN
INTENTIONS HERE WERE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THEY HAD CHANGED IN
THE PAST FEW MONTHS. OVER THAT PERIOD THEY HAD RELEASED THREE
LEBANESE ARAB ARMY OFFICERS THEY HAD HELD IN MEZZE PRISON
SINCE 1976: CAPTAIN HALANI, CAPTAIN GHUTAYMI AND CAPTAIN
'ADHAM. THE LATTER HAD JUST RETURNED TO BEIRUT AND WAS
SPEAKING VERY FAVORABLY OF SYRIANS. ACCORDING TO HIM, AHMAD
KHATIB WAS BEING VERY WELL TREATED BY SYRIANS. ABDO SAW THIS
AS OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT WHEN COMBINED WITH FACT SYRIANS
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APPEARED BY ENCOURAGING OPPOSITION TO ARMY AMONG MOSLEM ELEMENTS.
HE DID NOT THINK THEY WANTED LEBANON TO HAVE A STRONG ARMY.

2. ABDO NOTED THAT LEBANESE ARMY HAD ONLY OCCASIONAL CON-
TACTS WITH SYRIAN ARMY. HEADQUARTERS OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCE,
ON OTHER HAND, HAD BECOME SOMETHING OF RALLYING POINT FOR
MOSLEM LEBANESE OFFICERS, WHILE YARZE WAS BEING LEFT TO

CHRISTIANS.

3. I NOTE ABOVE FOR RECORD ONLY BECAUSE AM NOT YET READY
TO INTERPRET IT.
PARKER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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